in the Tendering System. This system is of long standing, which has withstood the test of time and has ample checks to ensure the transparency in purchases.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Modern International Technology for Diamonds Exploration

1047. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY
DR. M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce modern international technology for exploiting large scale reserves of diamonds located in various States particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms fixed for awarding contracts of minerals; and

(d) whether the Government co-ordinate with Mineral Development Corporations of various States in examining the bids before awarding contract?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The National Mineral Policy 1993 envisages, inter-alia, induction of modern technology for High value and scarce minerals, through private participation. The grant of Prospecting Licence and Mining Lease is governed by the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. The application for grant of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease is to be made to the State Government only. As Diamond is included in the 1st schedule of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, prior approval of Central Government is required before grant of Prospecting Licence/Mining Leases.

Visit of US Team of Labour Department

1048. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of U.S. Labour Department visited recently the manufacturing units engaged in the export of fabrics and leather goods to U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the main purpose of their visit; and

(c) reaction of the visiting team and its impact on country's exports?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Proposal to Appoint Tourism Development Corporations

1049. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the convenience of domestic and foreign tourists the Union Government propose to appoint Tourist Development Corporation of States as booking agents;

(b) if so, whether the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (R.T.D.C.) has been made as booking agents; and

(c) if not, whether these corporations are being given booking quota accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) No Sir. The Department of Tourism does not have any commercial activity.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Inter-State Superfast Express between Bangalore and Hubli

1050. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new inter-State Superfast Express has been introduced between Bangalore and Hubli from October 1, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that another train Shatabdi Express is proposed to be introduced between Bangalore and Hubli towards the end of the year 1996; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) In lieu of the erstwhile 2025/2026 Bangalore-Hubli Shatabdi Express, an intercity Express train viz. 2725/2726 Express has been introduced between Bangalore and Hubli w.e.f. 1.10.96.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Command Training of Boeing 737

1051. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has stopped Command Training of Boeing 737;